

HARALD SCHROTT, et al.  
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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-13 and add the following new claim 14 as indicated in the following Listing of Claims.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1        1. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ A water filter cartridge,  
2 especially for treating drinking water in beverage machines or  
3 drinking water devices, with a replaceable control unit to  
4 monitor the condition of the water filter cartridge,  
5 ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the improvement comprises a  
6 control unit ~~includes~~ having a sensor unit (11) with at least one  
7 conductance sensor (13, 14).

1        2. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein at least  
3 one conductance sensor (13) ~~is provided to measure the~~ measures  
4 conductivity of ~~the~~ filtered water.

1        3. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 or 2 wherein said at least one conductance sensor  
4 ~~elements (13) are provided which project projects~~ into the  
5 housing (2) of the filter cartridge (1).

1        4. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 further comprising at least one passage and/or at least  
4 one break point are provided for one or more for receiving said  
5 at least one conductance sensor elements (13) to go through.

1        5. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 further comprising a second conductance sensor (19) is  
4 provided to measure (14) for measuring the quality of the  
5 unfiltered water.

1        6. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising an electronic evaluation unit  
4 (19) ~~is provided.~~

1        7. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 ~~the~~ claim 1 or 5 further comprising an electronic evaluation unit  
4 (19) ~~takes~~ for taking into account the difference between at  
5 least two conductance values in performing ~~its~~ evaluation.

1        8. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising a temperature sensor (15) ~~is~~  
4 ~~provided.~~

1        9. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising an evaluation unit and a timing  
4 ~~element is provided for determining the time~~ in said evaluation  
5 unit.

1        10. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 or 5 further comprising a display (16) ~~is provided for~~  
4 displaying the condition of the water filter cartridge (1).

1        11. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~  
3 claim 1 further comprising fastening elements (12) ~~are provided~~  
4 to fasten the sensor unit (11) to the filter cartridge (1).

1        12. (Currently amended) ~~Water~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~

3 claim 11 wherein at least some of the fastening elements are  
4 catches (12).

1 13. (Currently amended) ~~Beverage~~ The water filter cartridge  
2 according to claim 1 further comprising a beverage machine or  
3 drinking water device ~~with a drinking water treatment system,~~  
4 ~~characterized in that a water filter cartridge (1) according to~~  
5 ~~one of the preceding claims is provided.~~

1 14. (New) A filter cartridge device for treating drinking  
2 water in beverage machines or drinking water devices having a  
3 housing and a replaceable control unit to monitor the condition  
4 of the water filter cartridge wherein the improvement comprises a  
5 control unit having a sensor unit (11) with at least one  
6 conductance sensor (13, 14) and fastening elements (12) being  
7 provided to attach the sensor unit (11) to the housing of the  
8 filter cartridge (1).